



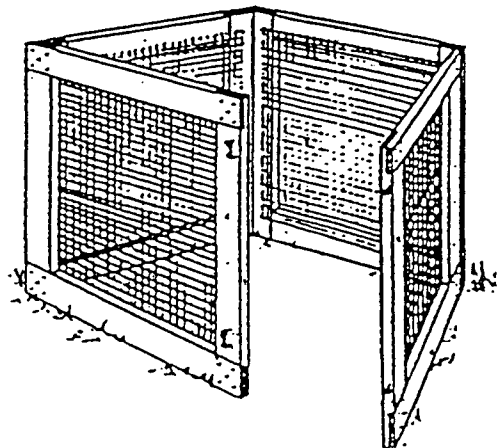
Wood & Wire Bin

This portable bin provides a convenient way to compost moderate volumes of yard trimmings with minimal labor. Yard trimmings simply are added to the bin as they are generated, with no effort besides occasional moistening. Compost will be ready in 6 months to 2 years. Chopping or shredding materials, maintaining adequate moisture by watering and covering with plastic or heavy fabric, and occasional turning will produce finished compost in a shorter period of time. Texture of the finished compost depends on the material composted and how long they are left in the bin. Mixing fresh greens brown yard trimmings will produce the best results.

This bin is flexible. It fits well in small spaces, and may be used either as a yard trimming holding bin or as a portable turning unit. The bin can be easily moved to turn piles or to harvest finished compost and build a new pile. Undo latches, pull the sides apart and move. Then, compost may be turned into the bin at its new location. Finished compost can be removed from the bottom. It costs about \$50 to build using new materials or less if made with recycled materials.

Materials

- Four 12 foot 2x4s
- 12 feet of 36-inch wide, 1/2-inch hardware cloth
- 100 1-1/2 galvanized #8 wood screws
- Four 3 inch galvanized butt door hinges
- 150 poultry wire staples or power stapler
- One 10 ounce tube exterior wood adhesive
- Six large hook & eye gate latches



Tools

- Hand saw and chisel, or radial arm saw with dado blade, or circular saw, or table saw.
- Hammer, screwdriver, tin snip, caulking gun, pencil, and small carpenter's square.

Steps

- Cut each 12 foot 2x4 into four 3 foot long pieces.
- Cut a 3/4 inch deep and 3-1/2 inch wide section out of each end, for a total of 32 lap cuts. If using a hand saw and chisel, cut 3/4 inch down at the 3-1/2 inch line. Then cut a 1/2 inch deep groove into the end of the board. Place a thick wood chisel in the end groove and split the wood with a hammer to the 3-1/2 inch cut. If using a radial arm saw, circular saw or table saw, set blade depth to 3/4 inches and make multiple passes until the whole section is removed.
- Make four 3 foot square frames from the lap joined 2x4s. Use one 2x4 on each frame. Put enough construction adhesive to fill the gaps when the lap joints are screwed together. Fasten each joint with four screws.
- Cut the hardware cloth with tin snips into four 3 foot square sections. Bend the edges of the cloth back over 1 inch for strength. Lay one onto each of the four frames. Center and tack each corner with a poultry wire staple. Hammer in place a staple every 4 inches along all four edges of the hardware cloth. Try to tension the cloth so it will not sag when filled with compost.
- Connect each pair of frames together with two hinges. Then put the hook and eye gate latches on the other end so that the sections latch together.

